

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7744

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, ETRD, MI

SUBJ: COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY FOR GENERALIZED PREFERENCES

REF: STATE 23113

1. THERE IS NO CASE OF NATIONALIZATION OF COMMERCIAL
PROPERTY OF US CITIZENS BY THE MALAWI GOVERNMENT.

2. WITH RESPECT TO NON-COMMERCIAL PROPERTY THERE ARE TWO
CASES ON FILE, ONE ACTUAL AND ONE POTENTIAL. BOTH CONCERN
MISSIONARY GROUPS AND INVOLVE SITUATIONS WHICH CONCEIVABLY
MIGHT REMOVE THEM FROM SCOPE OF INQUIRY RE COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY.

CASES ARE:

A. SEIZURE BY GOM OF 1,000 ACRES OF MALAMULO
MISSION OF SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH (SEE EMBASSY'S
A74, 10/7/74) FOR RE-DISTRIBUTION TO LAND-POOR VILLAGERS.
STRICTLY SPEAKING THIS REPRESENTS "NATIONALIZATION" WITH,
TO DATE, NO INDICATION BY GOM THAT IT INTENDS TO OFFER
COMPENSATION. ON OTHER HAND ADVENTIST CHURCH IN MALAWI
ACKNOWLEDGES IT BEHAVED IMPRUDENTLY IN ATTEMPTING HANG
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ON TO UNUSED AGRICULTURAL LAND IN HEAVILY POPULATED AREA

OF SOUTHERN MALAWI. CHURCH DOES NOT RPT NOT WISH TO
CONTEST GOM ACTION OR SEEK COMPENSATION, PREFERRING TO
TRY TO RECOUP BY GOOD PERFORMANCE IN OTHER AREAS OF
CHURCH ACTIVITY MALAWI;

B. OTHER CASE WHICH POTENTIALLY COULD FIT THIS
CATEGORY IS THAT OF CERTAIN CHURCH OF CHRIST MOVABLE
PROPERTY, DISPOSITION OF WHICH HAS BEEN HELD UP PENDING
DECISION BY THE MALAWI GOVERNMENT. THE PROPERTY MEANWHILE
IS IN HANDS OF CHURCH OF CHRIST WHICH FEELS THAT THE MATTER
EVENTUALLY WILL BE RESOLVED WITH NOMINALLY FAIR COMPENSA-
TION PAID. FOR BACKGROUND, SEE BLANTYRE TELEGRAMS 669
(5/4/73; 1146 (8/8/73); 1330 (9/19/73; AND ARUP (10/15/73).

2. EMBASSY COMMENT: IN BOTH CASES EMBASSY HAS FOLLOWED
PROGRESS CLOSELY AND OFFERED BE HELPFUL. IN BOTH, HOWEVER, MIS-
SIONARY GROUPS PLACE HIGHER PREMIUM ON REMAINING IN GOM'S
GOOD GRACES SO AS TO CONTINUE REMAINING CHURCH ACTIVITY UNDER
FAVORABLE AS POSSIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES; THEY ACCORDINGLY HAVE NOT
SOUGHT ACTIVE INTERVENTION BY EMBASSY. UNDER PECULIARITY
OF CIRCUMSTANCES, AND ESPECIALLY SINCE BOTH GROUPS ACKNOWLEDGE
AT LEAST SOME ELEMENT OF FAULT OF THEIR OWN, EMBASSY BELIEVES
THIS TYPE CASE PROBABLY SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED AMONG THOSE
INVOKING ELIGIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS UNDER GENERALIZED SYSTEM
OF PREFERENCES.
STEVENSON

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